MINUTES

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TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL SESSION

THE NORTH RIVER BAPTIST

ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE LIBERTY GROVE CHURCH,

WALKER COUNTY, ALA.

ON THE

20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd days of October, 1860.

PRINTED AT THE JASPER "ADVERTISER" OFFICE.

BY L. E. GILBERT.

1860

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MINUTES

1st. Oct. 20th, 1860.—The Ministers, Messengers, and Delegates, met with the congregation at Liberty Grove meeting house, Walker County, Ala., the introductory sermon was delivered by Elder A. Markham, from Matthew 5th Chapter and 13th verse.

2nd. After an interval of fifteen minutes, the delegates assembled in the meeting house, and the association was called to order by singing

and prayer, by the former Moderator, L. B, Harbin.

3rd. Then received and read letters from the following Churches and enrolled the names of the delegates.

CHURCHES.

DELEGATES.

From Pilgrims Rest, Hogan Yearby, Tho's Stillman and G. B. Collins.

From Bethlehem, Lewis Lee.

From Fayetteville, M. Vandiver and A. F. Bell.

From Hepsebeth, Elder L. B. Harbin, Wm. J. Baker, P.M. Newton,

From New Bethel, Elder G. W. Eaton,

From Mt. Pleasant. Elder W. L. Jones and Elder J. H. Sullivan,

From Shepherd, Wm. Blakeney.

From Clear Spring, Thomas McCluer and J. H. Brasher, From Mt. Joy, B. M. Kimbrel* and Jesse Penly.*

From Providence, Leroy Williams, S.H.Karrh, and Wm H. Phifer,

From Union, Wm P. Smith and Elder S. Tyler.

From Pleasant Grove, Isham Guttery, L Wm Mays and D. R. Baker.

From Camp Spring, Wm. Gwin.

From Jasper, T. L. Ried, Elder J. A. Hill, and Wm P. Broach:

From Mt. Zion, J. J. Wheeler,

From Liberty Grove, Elder J. J. Watts, I. M. Whitney and E. Sumner,

From Lebanon, Wm Thacker and W. W. Davis,

From New Prospect, Elder Allen Smith, Wm Mills and Jesse Smith,

From Friendship, James Brock and R. T. Lostis,

From Bethabara, Wm L Gideon, t and Edley Wiggins, From Corinth, Lewis Balinger and David Hankins,

From Shiloh, Thomas Woods, Elder I. Watson and Joel Burr,

From Mt. Lebanon, Letter but no delegates,

From Zion, Elder A. Markham. Elder J.H. Spann, D.S. Harris,

From Union, S. G. Matthews.

From Shady Grove, Elder A. L. Dugan, E. G. Terrel, D. R. Kantrell,

From Hermon, William Watt,

From Hopewell, M. Keenam, L. Silas M. Tucker and Thos. Harper, From Good Spring, D. W. Chambliss, M. E. Chambliss, A. C. B. Hale,

From Sardis, T. M. Martin, and A. Ward.

(Licensed Ministers marked thus L.)

4th. Then opened the door of the association for newly constituted or dismissed Churches, and the following church petitioned by letter and delegates for admission, to wit: Sardis, which was received: and the right hand given by the Moderator; and the delegates names enrolled above.

5th. Then proceeded to elect a Moderator, a Clerk, and Corresponding secretary, which resulted in the choice of L. B. Harbin, Moderator, J. J. Watts, Clerk, and A. F. Bell, Corresponding secretary.

6th. Then invited visiting members present to seats with us. Elders

B. B. Smith and T. A. Brent accepted the invitation.

7th. Then appointed the following committees, to wit: 1st. On arrangements, A. F. Bell, L. Lee, Allen Smith with the Moderator and Clerk. 2nd. On documents, J. A. Hill, B. B. Smith G. W. Eaton, J. H. Sullivan, and A. L. Dugan. 3rd. On Finance, J. H. Spann, D. R. Baker, and D. S. Harris. 4th. On Preaching, M. Vandiver, Leroy Williams, T. Woods, with the pastor and deacons of Liberty Grove Church.

Then on motion adjourned till Monday morning 9 o'clock, prayer

by Elder G. W. Eaton.

Sunday the stand was filled by J. H. Spann, and J. A Hill, at the close of the service took up a collection, amounting to \$29, for domestic missions.

Oct. 22nd. - Monday morning 9 o'clock. - Met pursuant to adjourn-

ment, prayer by Joel Rushing.

8th. The committee on arrangement reported; on motion, adopted the report and discharged the committee.

9th. Read the Constitution, rules of decorum, and Articles of faith.

10th. Called the names of delegates and marked absentees thus *

11th. Called for Correspondence, and the following were received, from Tuscaloosa association a letter and minutes by her messengers 1. R. Arnold, and J. Rushing, and from Canaan association, a letter and minutes, by her messengers, N. B. Hulsy and H. G. Smith, and from the East Alabama convention, H. G. Smith; the right hand was

given and they took seats with us.

12th. Returned Correspondence, 1st to Tuscaloosa association, L. B. Harbin, P. M. Newton, J. A. Hill, J. J. Watts and G. W. Eaton; Hill to write. 2nd, To Canaan association B. B. Smith. J. A. Hill, L. B. Harbin; Smith to write. On motion, droped Correspondence with the Big Bear Creek; and Columbus associations, on account of distance, 3rd, By request opened a correspondence with the Holly Spring association, appointed M. Keenam, S. M. Tueker, A. C. B. Hale, to attend, Bell to write. 4th, To the East Alabama Convention. G. W. Eaton, J. A. Hill, L. B. Harbin, David Manasco, Jr., J. J. Watts and Alen Smith to attend, Hill to write.

13th. The committee, then, on documents made the following as

their report, which was adopted.

1st. According to request, we reccommend that the following Churches have letters of dismission, to wit: Bethesda, Shiloh, Mt. Lebanon, Corinth, Zion, Mt. Zion, Camp Springs Friendship and Bethabara.

2d. Query from Hepsebeth church, viz: Is feet washing an ordinance of the house of God, or not? Answer. We think it is not.

3d. Queries from Good Spring church. Is it right for a regular Baptist church to restore a member that has been excluded from a

sister church, wrongfully; when we know their conduct to be orderly. Answer. We give it as our opinion, that according to the wording of the above grery, a church would be justifiable in receiving one so excluded; yet we think that churches should be very guarded in forming their decisions, with regard to the wrong actions of sister churches, in the exclusion of members. 2d. Is it right for a member of the Baptist church to traffic in ardent spirits? Answer. No! No!! No!!! for "Wo unto him that putteth the bottle to his neighbor's mouth." 3d. We furthermore find a request from the church at Corinth, that we examine certain documents sent up by them, which, having done with care, we give it as our opinion, that said church will not err in restoring to brother Winter his credentials. 4th. We feel it to be a matter of deep regret, that so many churches complain of coldness, while so f w have been visited with refreshing from the. presence of the Lord; also, that only two, viz: Providence and Pleas. ant Grove, have expressed their willingness to sustain a Missionary in the field next year; the former pledging \$40, the latter \$34.50. We heartily recommend other churches to pursue a like course. All of which is respectfully submitted. J. A. HILL, Ch.

14th. Cailed for Treasurer's report. The report was read and adopted, as follows: "The treasurer of the North River Association

offers the following report:

Oct. 1860.—Amount of Domestic Missionary funds received since the 15th of Oct. 1859. Received by the hand of D. Manasco, the amount subscribed by brother Smith for the use of D. W. Andrews, \$4., As sent up by churches last session, \$14.80. Received on subscription made up at last session for Domestic Missions, \$13.50. Received collection on Sabbath, last session, \$25.50. Total received, \$57.80.

DISBURSMENTS - Paid A. F. Bell, treasurer of Executive Board, in Oct. 1859, \$53.80. Paid A. Markham, for use of D. W. Andrews, \$4.

Total paid out, \$57.80. Accounts balanced.

Minute and Associational funds. Received of Committee on Finance, as per minutes of last year, \$65.05. Balance in my hands as per minutes of last session, including Indian Mission fund, \$36.20.

Total sum, \$101.25.

Disbursed as follows:—Paid for printing Minutes, \$25. Paid Clerk, \$15. Paid corresponding messengers, L. B. Harbin, \$6. E. Chaffin, \$7, and R. Adkins, \$7. Sent by correspondents to East Alabama convention, Indian Mission fund, \$2.60. Oct. 20, 1860, sent by brother William Gwin, \$20. Total, \$82.60. Balance due the Association, \$18.65

Due D. W. Andrews in 1857, \$85. Paid since that time, \$78.55. Balance due him at present, \$6.45. MILES RAINWATER, Treasurer.

The Andrews debt was forthwith paid and A. Markham receipted the Association.

15th. Appointed J. J. Watts, treasurer for the next year.

16th Called for the report of our book agents, which was read and adopted. Cash in hand, \$30.05. Books in hands of R. Adkins, \$14.80. Books in hands D. G. Kirkland, \$2. Purchased of I. R. Arnold, \$13.75. Sold of said books, \$18.75; which will increase our book fund, should all be realized, \$6.95. Total \$53.80.

We are informed by one of your corresponding messengers, to the Tuscaloosa Association, that that body made a donation of books to

the amount of \$30, which gives us a book fund of \$83.80; all of which is respectfully submitted. A. F. Bell, Levi Lindsey and James

Middleton, Book Agents.

17th. Called for the report of committee on Finance; adopted the report as follows, and discharged the committee: We, your committee on Finance, report as follows: Received for the printing of minutes and associational purposes, \$66 50. Home mission, \$15.85, all of

which we humbly submit. J. H. SPANN, Chairman

18th. Called for the report of District meetings. 1st District; The next meeting to be held with Pilgrim's Rest church, beginning on Saturday before the 2nd Sunday in September 1861; Elder L. B. Harbin to preach the introductory sermon, Elder J. J. Watts alternate, Elder G. W. Eaton to preach on Sabbath at 11 o'clock, in defence of missions, Elder Win. Goss, alternate.

Appointed the next association to be held with the Favetteville church, to convene on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in Sept., 1861; L. B. Harbin to preach the introductory sermon, J. A. Hill, alternate. J. J. Watts to preach on Sabbath at 11 o'clock, on missions, B. B.

Smith, alternate.

2nd District. The next meeting is to be held with the Jasper church, to convene on Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in August, 1861; Elder B. B. Smith to preach the introductory sermon, Elder L. B. Harbin, alternate, J. J. Watts to preach at 11 o'clock on Sabbath, on missions, L. B. Harbin, alternate, Elder G. W. Eaton at 2 o'clock, on the duty of Ministers and Deacons, J. J. Watts, alternate.

19th. Called for and adopted the missionary's report as follows:-Dear Brethren: I traveled 62 months; preached 141 sermons; delivered 75 exhortations; prayed in 65 families; aided in ordaining 2 Deacons and in the administration of the Lord's supper 3 times; traveled 1942 miles; witnessed between 40 and 50 professions, and received for my services, of your treasurer and others \$270. Respect-

fully submitted. J. J. WATTS, Missionary,

20th. Called for and adopted the report of the Executive Board, to wit: The Executive Board, submit the following report. We employed brother J. J. Watts to preach within the bounds of our association, and he reports to your board, the labor of 62 months, for which we paid him \$40 per month out of the cash funds in the hands of A. F. Bell, who is our treasurer, from the following sources, viz: Last years funds, \$7.10, by the hands of M. Rainwater, \$53.80, by the hands of W. A. Edmonds, \$10, and through the Fayettville church, \$30. Total \$100.90. Disbursed by payment to J. J. Watts. Respectfully submitted, A. F. Bell, Secretary and Treasurer. 21st. Appointed A. F. Bell, James Middleton, M. Vandiver, Levi

Lindsey and Green T. Hartin, Executive board for next year.

On motion adjourned till to morrow morning, 9 o'clock, prayer by L. B. Harbin

Tuesday 23rd 9'oclock.—Met pursuant to adjournment, prayer by J. A. Hill.

22nd. Appointed, A. F. Bell, J. Middleton, and Levi Lindsey; book agents.

23rd. Called for and adopted the Corresponding letters.

24th. Resolved, That this association erase from her minutes any Church that may fail to represent herself in this body for two years.

25th. Resolved, That the 10th article of the Constitution be so amended as to read thus: Every church numbering fifty members or less, shall be entitled to 3 delegates, and for every 25 members over fifty, one delegate, and that all ordained ministers of our association who are in good standing in their respective churches, shall be considered standing delegates.

26th. Whereas, The present is a day of general improvement in Literature, Arts, and Sciences, and as no better plan can be adopted for the promotion of the same, than the getting up, and sustaining

schools of high order in our midst, be it,

Resorted, 1st. That we take this plan and opportunity, of expressing our entire approval of all such undertakings; and that we congratulate the County of Walker, in that they have now, in successful operation, a school of such order, at their County site.

Resolved, 2nd. That we give expression to the hope that it may be

so conducted as to prove a blessing to our Common Country.

Knowing as we do, that, it was claimed for this institution in its getting up, that it should be of no denominational bias or control, therefore,

Resolved, 3rd. That we give it as the result of our housest conviction, that it would be promotive of its general interests: should more denominations than one be represented in its corps of Teachers; and that we take this plan of expressing our desire that it may so be.

This being a day of high excitement in the political world,

Resolved, 4th, That we give it as our candid opinion, that it would be gratifying to all patrons, or these wishing to become such; did they know the political views of those who are to be the instructors of their children, in so far at least, as soundness in Southern principles are concerned.

Resolved, 5th, That it be made the duty of our clerk to furnish the chairman of the board of Trustees of the Jasper Academy, a copy of these preambles, and resolutions, forthwith, and that they also appear on the face of our minutes.

27th. Then proceeded to elect our misssionary for next year which resulted in the choice of Elder J. A. Hill, and raised for his support by

subscription \$162.50.

28th. Resolved, That we advise our Churches composing this association to set apart the first Friday in November, next as a day of fasting humiliation, and prayer, to God, to avert his judgement from our Country, and advise the churches to meet at their meeting houses on that day.

29th. Resolved, That we advise the ministers of our association to spend the last week in next July, in holding missionary meetings;

from church to church in their respective Districts.

30th Resolved, That we have ten hundred coppies, of these minutes printed, and that the Clerk superintend the printing of the same, that the articles of Faith be printed, and reserve 60 coppies for Correspondence.

31th. Paid Correspondents as follows, L. B. Harbin, \$24. A. Mark-

ham \$6 and D. S. Harris \$6.

32st. Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the Liberty Grove Church, and to the Brethren and friends of this vicinity, for the kindness they have shown us during our present association.

33nd. Appointed M. Vandiver for 1st District, J. A Hill for 2nd District and J. H. Spann for 3rd District, distributing agents.

34rd. Then Read and corrected the minutes of the present session.
35th. Then on motion adjourned to meet with Fayettville Church on
Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1861, prayer by J. J.
Watts.

L. B. HARBIN; Moderator.

J. J. WATTS, Clerk.

N. B.—After the association adjourned, Elder A. L. Dugan and Isham Guttery remained with the Pastor of Liberty Grove Church till the next Sunday, and as the result of the meeting, about 30 professed and 26 were Baptized on Sunday by the pastor. 'Truely "The Lord has done great things for us whereof we are glad" to him be all the Glory, Amen.

Baptist Declaration of Faith.

1. On the Scriptures.—We believe the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, Salvation for its end, and Truth without any mixure of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian Union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

2nd. Of the true God.—That there is one true and living God, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth, inexpressably glorious in holiness; worthy of all possible honor, condence and love; revealed under the personal and relative distinction of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great

work of redemption.

3. Of the Fall of Man.—That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but by choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness, required by the law of God, wholy given to gratification of the world, of Satan, and of their, own sinful passions, and therefore under just condemnation to elernal ruin, without defence or excuse.

4. Of the Way of Salvation.—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the law by his personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by his death being arisen from the dead, he is enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and all sufficient Saviour.

5. Of Justification.—That the great Gospel Blessing, which Christ of his fulness bestows on such as believe in Him, is justification; that justification consists in the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life, on principles of righteousness, that it is not bestowed in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through his own redemption and righteousness, that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

6. Of the Freeness of Salvation.—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ; which refusal will submit him to an aggravated condemnation.

7. Of Grace in Regeneration.—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated and born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel, and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit which we bring forth to the gloryof God.

is found in the holy fruit which we bring forth to the glory God.

8. Of God's Purpose of Grace.—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistant with the moral agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable, that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God; and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the Gospel; it is the foundation of Christian asssurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

9. Of the Preservance of Saints.—That such only are real believers as endure unto the end: that their preserving attachment to Christis the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept

by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

10. Harmony of the Law and Gospel.—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfil its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfergned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible Church.

11. Of a Gospel Church.—That a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined

in the epistles to Timothy and Titus.

12, Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.—That Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, son and Spirit; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Savior; that it is prerequisite to the priviliges of a church relation, and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self examination.

13. Of the Christian Sabbath.—That the first day of the week is the Lord's day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious

purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreation by the devout observance of all the means of grace both private and public; and by preparation for that rest which remaine the for the people of God.

14. Of Civil Government.—That civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, expect in things oppossed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

15. Of the Righteous and Wicked.—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbeleif are in His sight wicked, and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

16. Of the World to come.—That the end of this world is approaching and that at the last day, Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution: that a seperation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgement will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

Statistics of the Churches for 1860.			تع بتر	ם מ	E U	H	Contrib'n	.02
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CHURCHES.	POSTOFFICE	PASTORS.	by	2	ਜ਼ :		등로	3
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Favettville, -	Fayettville, -	Wm. Goss,	313	0 5	0 0	57	\$4.00	1
New Bethel, -	Pilgrims Rest,	G. W. Eaton,	0 6	0 2	0 ,0	26	1.50	4
Shady Grove,	Pikeville, -	A. L. Dugan,	1 1	0 17	0 4	39	.1.50	
Pilgrim's Rest.	Pilgrims Rest,	G. W. Eaton,	1 2	0 4	0 0	* 50	2.35	
Shepherd,	New tonville,	G. W, Eaton,	1 10	015	0 1	41	3.00	
Bethlehem, -		L. B. Harbin,	.0 2	0 13	1 0	32	1.50	
Hepsebeth,	Sheffield,	L. B. Harbin,	3 0	0 2	1 0	30	2.15	
EMt. Pleasaut,	Davis' Creek,	E. Dodson,	4 3	o 10	0 0	69	3,00	
E Clear Springs,	Sheffield	none.	0 3	0 2.	1 1.	-16	1.50	
Union	New River	Wm. Goss,	012	0 0	2 0	21	3.00	2
Macedonia, -	Mudd Creek,	none.	0 0	0 0	0 0	00		
Hopewell,	Eldridge	none.	0 1	0 6	1 1	110	1.50	
Good Springs,	Palo,	M. Keenam,	0 3			13	1.50	
	Jasper	S. A. Smith,	24 5	0_1	0 0	104	3.00	
Jasper,	Jasper,	J. A. Hill, 🤌	0 7	0 0	0: 0	22	3.00	
ELiberty Grove,	Jasper,	J. J. Walls,	0.1	0 2	0 0	32	2.50	
Lebanon	York,	R. M. Adkins,	1 _0		4 3	42	2.00	
New Prospect,	Jasper	S. A. Smith,	16 6	0.1	0 0	54	3,15	
를 Hermon,	Jasper	S. A. Smith,	3 0.	0 6	0 0	26	1.90	
5 Union,	Eldridge,	S. Tyler,	0 0	0 0	1 0	20	1.00	
Mt. Joy,	Sheffield "	L. B. Harbin,	0 2	0 0	2 0	15	2.10	_
Providence	York,	L. B. Harbin,	9 4	0 4		109	5.60	
Sardis,	Eldridge, -	S. Tyler.	0.0	0 0	0 0	32	1.00	
Camp Springs.		A. Markham,	0 1	0.8	0 0.		2.00	
Bethesda, -	Hill;	E. Dodson,	0 0	0 0	1 1	18	1 00	
	Moscow, .	P. Lanford,	11 2			103	1,50	
Mt. Lebanon, .	Hésters,	E. Dodson,	1 o	0 1	o 1	37	1.50	
E Corinth, -	Big Pond, -		4 7		0 ,0	27	1.25	_
9 Zion	Astons' Store,			010		99	2.50	
SMt. Zion, -	Big Pond, -	P. Lanford,	2 1	021	1 2	72	2.00	
Friendship, -	Big Pond, -	W.Montgomry	0 5		0 0	30	1.00	
Bethabara	Hill,				0.0	64	2.00	
-Total			5 104	0 146	16 18	1349	66.50	. 3



